

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

BACHUS, Spencer (Republican)
Representative, 6th District, Alabama
Elected 1992 to 103rd Congress
Reelected to succeeding Congresses



BACKGROUND

Born: Birmingham, Alabama - 28 December 1947
Home: Birmingham, Alabama
Marital status: Married - 5 children
Religion: Baptist
Education: Auburn U., BS, 1969; Univ of Alabama, JD, 1972
Military: Army National Guard, 1969-71
Profession: Attorney

Political: AL Senate, 1982-83; AL House, 1983-86; campaign manager for Gov Guy Hunt (R), 1986; State Board of Education, 1986-91; AL GOP Party Chairman, 1991. Redistricting changed the 6th District from one-third black to 90% white, playing a large part in Bachus' victory, with 54% of the vote, over incumbent Rep Ben Erdeich (D). Reelected in 2000 with 88% of the vote and in 2002 with 90%.

In the 106th Congress, spearheaded a movement to maintain a US military presence in Panama to protect the Panama Canal. During the debate on H. J. Res. 44, the Kosovo war powers resolution, remarked that the deep divisions and misgivings being expressed in Congress and which are being heard throughout the Nation and among NATO allies are understandable, justified, and cannot be ignored. Blamed the Administration for not making the case to the Congress or the American people. Believed the Congress should pass legislation that would curb the military's mandatory anthrax vaccine program. A champion of third world debt forgiveness, not an easy sell in his State, has focused his argument on the national security interest in funding this "because each of these 40 countries is a potential Kosovo."

In the 107th Congress, offered an amdt to H.R. 2052, to facilitate famine relief efforts and a comprehensive solution to the war in Sudan, that prohibits any entity engaged in the development of oil or gas in Sudan from raising capital in the United States or from trading its securities. Urged President Clinton not to follow through on a plan to reduce a military pay increase. Supported President Bush's efforts to increase military salaries and benefits: "We have military personnel that are right at the poverty level, and if you serve your country you deserve to be paid well." Suggested Congress should revoke China's preferential trading privileges in response to their illegally holding US service personnel and an American military aircraft. Cosponsored legislation to address the military absentee ballot issue. Sponsored amdt withdrawing US troops from Kosovo if Europe fails to deliver promised aid. Following the September 11 terrorist attacks, remarked "In Afghanistan, and throughout the world, our servicemen and women are accepting the challenge of protecting the country. When they do serve our Nation, they put themselves at risk; and they are willing to take that risk."

Commenting on the new mode of terrorism in the form of anthrax, urged his colleagues to meet the challenge head on: "Let us not give in to the terrorists. Let us not give them the pleasure of seeing this House flinch at shadows. Let us keep this floor open for business."

Commenting on the economic stimulus package, urged his colleagues to honor their commitment to give Americans tax relief. Anniston Army Depot partially in his district.

AF Bases: Birmingham MAP (ANG)

COMMITTEES

FINANCIAL SERVICES – Subc on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit – Chmn

JUDICIARY – Subcs on: Constitution; Courts, the Internet & Intellectual Property

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE – Subc on Aviation